

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100220116-6

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CLASSIFICATION CTA/OCT

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ITEM NO: WH-65

DATE: 29 MAR 74

SUBJECT: THAILAND: SANYA RESIGNATION RUMORS

IN A CONVERSATION WITH A US OFFICIAL ARMY CHIEF KRIT SIVARA SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER SANYA HAS AN EXCELLENT COMPROMISE BUT NOT A STRONG ENOUGH LEADER FOR THE CRUCIAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CURRENTLY FACING THAILAND. KRIT IMPLIED THAT A DECISION ON WHETHER SANYA WOULD STAY ON OR NOT MIGHT TAKE PLACE TOWARD MID-APRIL AND THAT THE KING WOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY.

THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SANYA IS ABOUT TO STEP DOWN OR THAT THE KING WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM GO. SANYA HAS REPEATEDLY SAID THAT HE WILL LEAVE OFFICE ONCE GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE HELD, WHICH MAY NOT BE UNTIL THIS FALL. DESPITE HIS DENIALS, KRIT'S REMARKS BETRAYED A STRONG INTEREST IN RUNNING FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP; HE HAS QUIETLY BEGUN SUPPORTING TWO POLITICAL PARTIES

EXT: State Department review completed

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